

right for their family. He described this as “constitutionally unsound.”

Rather than settling the debate on abortion, the draft Dobbs opinion would further divide our fractious Nation and set the stage for a radical majority in the Court to erase even more constitutional rights. It would give government the power to dictate your rights and dictate your future. That is why we must take action to protect women’s productive rights.

Tomorrow, the Senate will vote on the Women’s Health Protection Act. This bill will codify the right to provide or obtain an abortion free from medically unnecessary restrictions. The American people deserve to know where their Senators stand. I will not stop fighting for the right of every American, especially the women of America, to have these rights as established for over 50 years.

For years, the Republicans have claimed they are the party of families, the party of family values. Yet they have spent decades ignoring the needs of working families. Republicans are willing to force women to carry unwanted or unexpected or even dangerous pregnancies to term, but they are not willing to help them raise their children.

There are aspects of their voting patterns in the Senate that make it clear that when it comes to helping families with the basics, such as tax credits for children, making sure that families have paid medical leave for their newborns or other family members—all of these things are family friendly and family values. Unfortunately, they are not supported by many, if any, Republicans. That would be a demonstration that they truly care for families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ASMERET ASEFAW BERHE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in opposition to the nomination of Dr. Asmeret Berhe, who has been nominated to serve as the Director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Office of Science is the Nation’s largest Federal sponsor of basic research in physical sciences. Its mission is to advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States. This job, this mission to advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States is one that I view as very critical.

Dr. Berhe has been a professor of soil biogeochemistry—soil biogeochemistry—at the University of California Merced for over a decade. Now,

she has focused her research on soil management and sequestering carbon in the soil. Her background and her experience have very little to do with the Department of Energy’s main scientific focus.

A May 9, 2001, op-ed in the Wall Street Journal by a physicist whose expertise is theoretical physics has noted:

Ms. Berhe’s research program on soil chemistry, exploring the capture of carbon dioxide, is relevant to climate-change policy. But her research expertise isn’t in any of the Office of Science’s major programs, and she has no experience as a scientific administrator and minimal experience with the Energy Department itself.

So not that there is anything wrong with her underlying experience to do other things, but for this specific position, the qualifications just aren’t there. Dr. Berhe is clearly not the right choice to lead the Office of Science.

Certain positions Dr. Berhe has taken or endorsed are also concerning. On February 28, 2001, she retweeted this statement:

I’m just going to propose that a nation that can land an SUV sized rover in an ancient lake on another planet can build an electrical grid that is not [f---ing] useless—

This is her retweeting—

because of slavish devotion to the free market.

Apparently, we are devoted to the free market, and she doesn’t like it.

On May 7, 2015, she wrote in Science that “the practice of farming” is to blame for climate change. “The practice of farming” is to blame for climate change.

Dr. Berhe is not the right person to serve as the Director of the Office of Science. I rise in opposition to her nomination. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this nominee.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON PHILLIPS NOMINATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to start the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Phillips nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rosen
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Sasse
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Thune
Cramer	Menendez	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—22

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Rubio
Braun	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Toomey
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cruz	Lee	
Daines	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—3

Lummis	Sanders	Scott (FL)
--------	---------	------------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 773, Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Ron Wyden, Amy Klobuchar, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.